the concerned State, they should themselves find funds for construction of roads, including those situated in the coal belt areas.

Freight Equalisation Policy

4598. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:
SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the freight equalization policy has failed to fulfil all financial purposes as well as accepted purpose of decentralisation of industries in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c). The original justification for introducing the scheme of freight equalisation was to promote industrial development of areas location far away from the major sources of raw materials and production centres and thus promote balanced regional development. This policy did fulfil this objective in the initial years. However, various Committees appointed by the Union Government from time to time reviewed the policy and observed that the beneficial effect of the policy in terms of regional dispersal was more than offset by the increased in real transport costs and that there were other instruments for achieving balanced regional development like appropriate fiscal and credit policies, provision of essential infrastructural facilities, transport subsidies, etc. Government accepted these recommendation and freight equalisation was gradually phased out in most items. The other instruments suggested by these review committees were increasingly relied on. Alongwith these places Government have been implementing the Growth Centre Scheme for the development of infrastructure of a high order in the backward areas of the country in order to attract investors to set up industries.

Projects Sponsored by Union Government

4599. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:
SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI PROBIN DEKA:
SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects sponsored and monitored by the Union Government, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the reasons for some of the projects lagging behind from the Scheduled time; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): Requistie information if being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.